

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

May 19, 2016, 12:00 to 2:00 pm

West Basin's Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility

1935 S. Hughes Way

El Segundo, CA 90245

Attendance:

Joan Cardellino

Fran Diamond

Gloria Gray

Timothy Lippman

Sarah Sikich

Enrique Zaldivar

Absent:

Bruce Reznik

Staff:

Tom Ford, Ariadne Reynolds, Scott Valor
(via teleconference), Marcelo Villagomez,

Guangyu Wang

Guests: EJ Caldwell, Walter

Lamb, Jim Lamm, Wing

Tam

Note: Agenda Items are listed in the order in which they were taken up. Called to order at 12:04 p.m.

Enrique Zaldivar chaired the meeting.

Agenda Item 1. Public Comment

Walter Lamb commented on a letter that he sent to the SMBRC Executive Director on behalf of the Ballona Wetlands Land Trust regarding SMBRC governance issues as well as the most recent Coastal Commission meeting.

Members of the public made comment that included a video with greenbelt representations, interviews, and community involvement aspects.

Jim Lamm, Ballona Creek Renaissance, commented on various ongoing projects in the Ballona Creek watershed.

Agenda Item 2. Informational Items

- a. Consideration of Approval of March 17, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Approved without objection. (M: Diamond, S: Gray) Abstain: Lippman, Cardellino

- b. Order of Agenda

No change

- c. Reports from the Executive Director and Staff

Tom Ford noted that the Baywire newsletter was released yesterday with a new, "friendlier" format. He highlighted some of the articles in the newsletter.

Ford noted the presentation made at the previous Governing Board meeting regarding a climate change vulnerability analysis that is currently underway.

Ford noted his presentation to the Regional Water Board in April regarding the comprehensive monitoring plan. Guangyu Wang assisted with the presentation. Ford said that efforts are being made to upgrade the ocean monitoring station at the Santa Monica Pier.

Ford updated the timeline on the Proposition 84 proposals, noting TAC review and questions regarding certain proposals. Staff has also been conducting site reviews regarding certain projects. He noted that the recommended projects will likely not be ready for the June Governing Board meeting, but at the subsequent meeting.

He acknowledged that a settlement has been reached with the Ballona Wetlands Land Trust and that a full discussion at the Governing Board meeting will take place. Ford also acknowledged a letter from the BWLT received yesterday.

Ford responded to questions regarding administration of the Proposition 84 grants, noting that the SMBRC does not actually administer the grants, but the SWRCB does. The SMBRC Governing Board makes funding recommendations by way of a formal process that are sent to the SWRCB for consideration.

He also responded to questions regarding leveraging opportunities from other entities for larger projects. Ford noted that one TAC process is to look at the projects and metrics from a comprehensive standpoint.

Agenda Item 3. Executive Committee Business

- a. Establish Governing Board Agenda for June

Consideration of Approval of the FY17 Annual Work Plan

Chair Zaldivar introduced this item, asking that the bulk of the time for the Governing Board meeting be allocated to addressing plan specifics. Ford noted that the Work Plan (WP) is proposed to be restructured so that it is easier to understand, more efficient, and to more closely resemble the Bay Restoration Plan (BRP). He noted that none of the categories would be deleted, but grouped together in a more comprehensive manner that reflects the BRP.

Ford compared the BRP to the WP in that the BRP is the larger document revised every five years and the WP is the annual “update,” both of which are ultimately approved by US EPA. He noted that not every task/project is actually a “Commission” project but rather may be taken up by another entity in the watershed and “supported” by the SMB National Estuary Program.

Ford noted that the restructuring will take the five major program areas and re-work them into three major program areas. He provided the detail and reasoning for the re-categorizations.

He walked through the table of tasks and descriptions, responding to questions on various tasks.

Ford also walked the Executive Committee through the Watershed Advisory Council (WAC) comments made at the recent meeting with accompanying responses. He noted that the vast majority of comments have been addressed/integrated in the upcoming WP.

Board members suggested that the WAC comments and summary be sent to the WAC email list in addition to it currently being on line.

This item was placed on the agenda without objection. (M: Sikich, S: Gray)

b. Member Comments and Announcements Regarding Matters not on the Agenda

Director Gray suggested that a closed session agenda item be on every agenda in the case that it is necessary. Staff stated that it is working with legal counsel to create a standard agenda item.

Joan Cardellino commented on a news article regarding storm water regulation.

Director Gray asked regarding ACA 8. Staff updated her on the status of the legislation.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:38 p.m. without objection.